

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT: Andrew Geiger, DOC PIO
(406) 841-2772

State Housing Board to Meet in Lolo August 18

(HELENA)---The Montana Board of Housing (MBOH), Department of Commerce, will meet in Lolo on Friday, August 18. The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. and will be held at Farmer's State Bank. Community leaders and members of the public interested in programs offered by the MBOH will have a chance to talk with board members about housing issues at the beginning of the meeting. "We are seeing some of our biggest challenges in housing from the Flathead to the Bitterroot Valley, with these critical housing programs we are ensuring people have greater options, especially young families," Governor Brian Schweitzer said.

"The input of local leaders and citizens has been critical to the development of several new programs at MBOH," said Chairman Bob Thomas. "I look forward to meeting members of the Lolo community."

To date, the MBOH has provided the following home loans for area counties: **Lake County:** 586 loans for \$36,131,000; **Mineral County:** 109 loans for \$5,985,843; **Ravalli County:** 619 loans for \$40,746,711; **Sanders County:** 109 loans for \$7,069,104; and **Missoula County:** 4,050 loans for \$274,679,312. **In total, 5,473 loans have been financed by the MBOH for a total of \$364,633,970 for these counties.**

The Montana Board of Housing is administratively attached to the Montana Department of Commerce. The MBOH serves the housing needs of Montana's low- and moderate-income population by providing financing for the development or rehabilitation of the state's affordable housing stock, as well as low-interest loans for first-time homebuyers through the Homeownership Program. Since 1977, the MBOH has served 40,000 Montana families by financing nearly \$2.5 billion for affordable homeownership and multi-family housing units.

The MBOH will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in the public meeting. A person in need of accommodation should contact Diana Hall at (406) 841-2840 no later than August 11, 2006.

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